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# San Diego City Attorney **MICHAEL J. AGUIRRE**

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## **NEWS RELEASE**

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### **AUCTION FRAUD SCAMMER SENTENCED AND BANNED FROM INTERNET**

**San Diego, CA:** Joseph Dudley Randall, doing business as MyWatchStore, cannot buy or sell goods on the Internet for three years. Randall pleaded no contest to two misdemeanor counts for failing to deliver products to buyers on the eBay auction site. The criminal case was filed by the San Diego City Attorney's Consumer and Environmental Protection Unit and settled in San Diego Superior Court yesterday.

"Although the bulk of Internet auctions are legitimate, this case serves to remind everyone that there are scammers out there in cyberspace ready to take your money and run," said City Attorney Michael Aguirre.

According to Deputy City Attorney Joan McNamara, the criminal case alleged that Joseph Dudley Randall defrauded several victims out of over \$25,000 on the Internet. One victim, Tiffany and Company, bid on a 1940s Tiffany sterling silver charm bracelet, but received inexpensive costume jewelry. Other victims bought high-end wrist watches and \$20 gold coins, but received broken watches and Kennedy half-dollar coins.

"The citizens of San Diego need to be cautious when buying on Internet auction sites," said Deputy City Attorney McNamara. "Always check the seller's feedback and pay by credit card whenever possible."

San Diego Superior Court Commissioner Robert C. Rice ordered Joseph Randall to serve 360 days in jail, which was stayed pending successful completion of probation, and 45 days of Public Work Service. Randall was also ordered to pay \$25,451.45 in victim restitution, will serve three years probation, pay a \$100 restitution fine, and is banned from buying or selling goods on the Internet for three years.

Internet Fraud complaints can be filed on the Internet Fraud Complaint Center (IFCC) website at [www1.ifccfbi.gov](http://www1.ifccfbi.gov). Consumers can also check the City Attorney's website by going to [www.sandiego.gov](http://www.sandiego.gov) or call the City Attorney's Consumer hotline, (619) 533-5600, for more information.

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